

## J.F.X. Walsh

W14789

[William?] Smallwood

[Bridgeport?] District

Growth of Bridgeport

Present Day Bridgeport

Religious Life in Bridgeport

St. Peter's Church

[Beechwood?] Ave.

Interview with Rev. J.P.X. Walsh

I asked the Rev. Mr. Walsh about the religious beliefs of the church, and he told me that it was [?] [Roman?] Catholic like all others of that belief.

The church is not composed of an aristocratic class. The people are all middle-class working people, and some of the poorer class.

The church has a seating capacity of 800; its membership is 4,000. On Sunday attendance is around 3,000.

The church has several organizations designed to keep the church as a social as well as a religious center. These organizations include the Men's league, for older men; the [Holy?] Rosary [Women's?] League, for the women of the church; the Catholic Youth Organization

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(C.Y.O.) for young married couples and business people; the high school [club?] whose aim is to keep religion in mind and to have a social center; and the Sunday School, for youngsters. The attendance at the Sunday School is about 400.

Of all the people who attend this church, there are only ten colored people. This handful of people comprises two families. Three-quarters of the people attending this church are of Irish-American extraction, with a sprinkling of Italians, [Slovaks?] and Hungarians. The church is conducted in an American manner, that is, that the majority of those in attendance speak English. The young people of foreign extraction are mostly American born, and though they attend this church, their parents attend churches where their own language is generally used.